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SUPPLEMENT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

SUBJECT The Soziale Rechtspartei

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ORIGIN

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1. A body calling itself the Soziale Rechtspartei (Social Rights Party) applied for a charter to operate in Berlin and in the Russian Zone in February 1947. The organizing committee consisted of the following members on 15 March 1947:

Hans Arthur von Kemnitz, Chairman
 Dr. Richardja Lotter, Secretary
 Werner Schonrock, Treasurer
 Dr. med. Freiin Helene von Watter
 Frau Elsa Schild
 Kurt Piesker
 Dr. med. Bruno Gettkant
 Erwin Herrmann
 Paul Ritter (formerly of the Freikonservative Partei)
 Detlef von Arnim-Krochendorff (since deceased)

2. Admittedly conservative, the Soziale Rechtspartei stands for free enterprise, a strong Germany, and the protection of the institution of private property. A more detailed examination of its platform reveals the following points:

- a. A foreign policy based on the principles of the Atlantic Charter and the United Nations Charter; agitation for a final determination of Germany's postwar boundaries on the basis of free plebiscites.
- b. Revitalization of the principles of free world trade.
- c. German political and economic unity; stern opposition to all particularist or separatist movements.

dd Equal rights for all German citizens; the abolition of special rights or extraordinary powers.

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763 25X1 c.
Date: 1 Apr 78 By [redacted]

- f. Freedom of speech, religious toleration, freedom of person and property.

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-2-

g. Establishment of representative government; installation of a bicameral legislature, with a strong Senate to provide a check on the popularly-elected lower house.

h. Reconstruction and revitalization of the civil service; reestablishment of an independent judiciary, with the judges to be removed only for malfeasance of office; institution of self-government on a community level.

i. Thrifty government.

j. Separation of Church and State.

k. Preservation of the family; special subsidies for large families.

l. Participation of women in political affairs.

m. Protection of youth; guarantee of a Christian, unpolitical education in public schools, with subsidies for needy scholars.

n. Freedom of scientific research and artistic endeavor.

o. Repudiation of the class struggle—all classes and trades to work together for the reconstruction of the Fatherland; guarantee of work or unemployment insurance for all citizens.

p. Protection of small property-holders; fair taxation policies; a state-subsidized housing program.

q. Freedom for workers and consumers to organize (but membership in an organization in no case to be made compulsory).

r. An increase in agricultural production from a judicious mixture of large, middle, and small-sized farm holdings.

s. Increase in industrial production through a restoration of free enterprise and a dropping of government controls and restrictions.

t. Increased efficiency in the fields of distribution and marketing.

u. Protection of private property; no nationalization without adequate compensation; private ownership of public utilities.

v. An adequate social security program.

3. The chairman of the organizing committee, Hans Arthur von Kermitz, stands at the extreme right wing of his already conservative party.



4. Dr. Richard Lotter leads the opposition to Von Kermitz and holds meetings with her set every Wednesday night at her home in Berlin-Wilmersdorf,

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-3-

Helmstedtorstrasse 29/IV. At one time she held political open-houses on Saturday nights too, but Von Kermitz forbade her holding more than one meeting a week. Dr. Lotter's associates oppose Von Kermitz for more than personal reasons: they believe that a new social order has arisen in Germany, the war having impoverished the aristocrats, businessmen, and workers alike and having erased all class distinctions. Germany's salvation lies in all citizens joining hands to work for reconstruction in an atmosphere of free enterprise. Von Kermitz, on the other hand, retains a paternalistic Junker attitude and continues to believe in the manifest destiny of the propertied classes.

5. Dr. Helene von Mitter carries on liaison between the opposing groups in the Soziale Rechtspartei. Dr. Lotter's group would like to see her succeed Von Kermitz as titular head of the party, but realize that giving a woman such a position would draw ridicule upon the party. Her parentage also weighs against her, since her father, Freiherr von Mitter, is still remembered by the working classes as the Reichswehr General who slaughtered the strikers in the Ruhrgebiet in 1920.
6. Paul Ritter, another member of the organizing committee, left the so-called Freikonservative Partei with a number of his associates to join the Soziale Rechtspartei in January 1947. The Freikonservative Partei, also a fledgling rightist party, applied for permission to organize in Berlin in 1946 under the leadership of Paul Ritter and one Herr Lautwein but suffered a refusal.

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